

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KS, US, PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED ON(A) KOREAN GIFTS TO U.S. OFFICIALS; (B) KCIA ACTIVITIES IN THE US; AND (C) MILITARY PROCUREMENT IN KOREA.

QUOTE:

(A) QUESTION: ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY, IN MAY 1974 FORMER WHITE HOUSE SPECIAL ASSISTANT JOHN NIDECKER TURNED OVER AN ENVELOPE CONTAINING \$10,000 TO THEN AMBASSADOR TO KOREA PHILIP HABIB, WHICH HAD BEEN GIVEN MR. NIDECKER AS A "FAREWELL GIFT" BY PARK CHONG KYU, HEAD OF THE ROK PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY FORCE. IS THIS STORY ACCURATE?

ANSWER: YES, IN ITS BROAD OUTLINE. THE MONEY WAS RETURNED IMMEDIATELY AT MR. HABIB'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PERSON WHO GAVE IT TO MR. NIDECKER. SUBSEQUENTLY, MR. HABIB PERSONALLY PROTESTED IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS MR. PARK'S ACTION, AND SPECIFICALLY WARNED HIM AGAINST THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

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QUESTION: WAS THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF THIS EVENT?

ANSWER: YES.

QUESTION: WAS THE MATTER TURNED OVER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR INVESTIGATION?

ANSWER: NO. THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE ON FOREIGN SOIL AND INVOLVED NO IMPROPER ACTION BY ANY U.S. NATIONAL. THERE WAS NO REASON, THEREFORE, TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

QUESTION: HOW ABOUT ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WHICH MAY HAVE OCCURRED ON U.S. TERRITORY? WERE THEY AND ARE THEY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF U.S. LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ?

ANSWER: YES. WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR ONCE MORE THAT WHENEVER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVES INFORMATION WHICH INDICATES ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY ON U.S. TERRITORY, THIS INFORMATION IS IMMEDIATELY PASSED TO JUSTICE. IN THE CASE OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITY IN THE U.S. BY KOREAN OFFICIALS, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMMEDIATELY TURNED OVER TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION AS IT CAME TO OUR ATTENTION. AND IT WAS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH PROMPTED THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION. WE HAVE BEEN AND ARE COOPERATING FULLY WITH JUSTICE IN THIS INVESTIGATION. UNQUOTE

(B) KCIA ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.
QUOTE:

QUESTION: IS THERE AN INVESTIGATION GOING ON CONCERNING HARASSMENT BY THE KCIA OF KOREANS RESIDING IN THE U.S.?

ANSWER: YES. ALLEGATIONS OF HARASSMENT ARE UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO TURN OVER COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGATIONS OF SUCH HARASSMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR INVESTIGATION. IT HAS BEEN STATE DEPARTMENT'S PRACTICE.

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QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF THESE INVESTIGATIONS?

ANSWER: THIS IS A QUESTION YOU'LL HAVE TO ADDRESS TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. UNQUOTE

(C) MILITARY PROCUREMENT IN KOREA:
QUOTE: QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE STORIES ALLEGING LARGE SCALE IRREGULARITIES IN PROCUREMENT OF

SUPPLIES FOR U.S. MILITARY IN KOREA? WHAT STATE/EMBASSY

INVOLVEMENT HAS THERE BEEN?

ANSWER: BASICALLY, THIS IS A STORY ABOUT WHICH YOU SHOULD ASK DOD. FOR OUR PART, OUR EMBASSY IN SEOUL HAS BEEN AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND HAS MAINTAINED CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE U.S. MILITARY ON THE SUBJECT. WE HAVE MADE KNOWN OUR CONCERN TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AND HAVE URGED THAT THIS PROBLEM BE RECTIFIED. UNQUOTE.

2. THERE WERE NO QUESTIONS ON KOREAN GIFTS OR PROCUREMENT AT THE OCTOBER 29 BRIEFING. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON INVESTIGATION OF KCIA BEING CARRIED IN WIRELESS FILE.

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